

CARTSNEWS

The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society

ISSUE #42

May 2014

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy Collecting,
Tony Chibbaro, CARTS President

Contact Information:

Don Bailey
PO Box 1272, Etowah, NC 28729
e-mail: ELADON@MORRISBB.NET

Tony Chibbaro
PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29217
e-mail: CHIBBARO@MINDSPRING.COM

Bob King
709 Cardinal Dr., Brevard, NC 28712
e-mail: TOKENADDICT@CITCOM.NET

Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!
Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Now, a reminder that the **May 17** meeting of CARTS will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, 6320 Amp Drive in Clemmons, NC. This is on Interstate 40 just west of Winston-Salem. Many members will recall that we have met there twice before. **From Interstate 40 take exit 184 and turn left if you come from the west, right if you come from the east. Then, almost immediately, turn right on Amp Drive between "I Bambini" and the Mobile Station.**

Lamar Bland has reserved the meeting room from 8:00 AM until noon, and we should be fully underway by 8:30. You know that there will be more Carolina tokens available for purchase, sale or trade than you can find in any other location. Come early; stay for lunch.

TWO UNRECORDED N.C. TOKEN VARIANTS

Lamar Bland

First, Don Bailey wrote, in issue #12 of CARTSNEWS (November 2006), about the following token:

**Erlanger Cotton Mills Co. / 2½ c / Lexington,
N.C.// (Orco design)—R, Wm, 18mm**

It varied from a different 2½ c piece in size and metal, but it also had backward “n” lettering in “Lexington” and “N.C.”

This backward “n” lettering is also visible in the company’s 5 c token, which is pictured below.



(star) Erlanger Cotton Mills Co. (star) / 5 /
Lexington, N.C.// Payable In Merchandise Only / 5 /
Orco / Not Transferable—Rd, Cp, 19mm.
(E cut-out).

Whether this token varies from a 5 without the backward “n” has not been established. This variation has not been reported in other denominations of Erlanger Cotton Mill tokens.

Second, In Issue #40 of CARTSNEWS (November 2013) was my article about new discoveries among the Wilmington Champion Compress series. It did not, however, include that a variant exists of their “Wharf” token. The error contains the obvious misspelling on the obverse, which is the only way the obverses differ. The pictures below show the error and the common reverse of the two.



(orn) / WARF./ (orn) // One / 2 / Bale—Ov, Al,
31mm. (encircling beads on both sides—holed on one
end).

Many years ago when I collected coins, I owned a copy of Frank Spadone’s *MAJOR VARIETY AND ODDITY GUIDE OF UNITED STATES COINS* (1965). This must explain why I still enjoy finding errors. But these days I prefer to find them in tokens.

North Carolina Collector

Buyer of NC Singles or Collections
Trader list for all state tokens

Enthusiastic researcher

Robert S. King, 709 Cardinal Dr.
Brevard, NC 28712

828-883-8028 tokenadict@citcom.net

Want to buy southern states tokens. You price or I will make an offer, your, choice. I don't make flea market offers. Pay top dollar for tokens I need and top wholesale for tokens I have.

I want mavericks and one is fine. Give me a chance, we will make a deal.

Active buyer of R. G. Dun and Bradstreet

1963 & newer

Need 1882, 1884 & 1897

Need a complete national book for 1910, 1911 or 1912.

devoted to Civil War relics and other items he had found over the years.



A line drawing of the Combahee Company token, aluminum, 25mm

After my little tour, he showed me the token and I was immediately disappointed in its condition. He had relayed to me over the phone that the token had some "ground action", but I didn't expect it to be so bad. Much of the lettering was still visible, but portions were completely illegible. I contemplated including a photograph of the token with this article, but due to its poor condition, I decided to experiment with a new way of illustrating tokens. I devised a process which produced illustrations similar to those Jerry Adams used on the front cover of *Talkin' Tokens* for so many years. If this method proves workable for me over time, I may use it for illustrating rare, but dug, tokens for the next edition of the South Carolina token book. But to get back to the matter at hand, after purchasing the token from my friend I got busy trying to research the history of the Combahee Company. To my chagrin, I found that there is not a great deal of information available on this company. What I was able to find came to me piecemeal – a sentence or two here and there.

New Find from South Carolina

Tony Chibbaro

I am always happy to add the name of a new company to the ever-growing list of entities that have issued tokens in South Carolina, especially when that new company has ties to a historically important person. And such is the case with this issue's new find – The Combahee Company of White Hall, S.C. The token illustrated below was unearthed by a relic hunter in Colleton County earlier this year. The day after he found it he called me on the phone to report "a token which is not in your book." He described it to me over the phone and we made plans to meet at his house the next day. At the appointed time I drove to his home in Lexington and was treated to a tour of his "museum" – an upstairs room



Duncan Clinch Heyward (1864-1943)

The Combahee Company was chartered in Wilmington, Delaware circa 1915. The president of the corporation and its driving force was Duncan C. Heyward of Columbia, S.C. For you South Carolina history buffs, you may recognize that Heyward was the 88th Governor of the state, serving in such capacity from 1903 to 1907. At the time of Heyward's election, ex-Governor Ben Tillman still carried a lot of weight in South Carolina politics and favored Heyward because of his sympathetic stance toward the dispensary system Tillman had established while in office in the 1890s. Heyward's four years as governor were fairly uneventful. Perhaps his most memorable accomplishment was the authorship of *Seed from Madagascar*, a book length exposé on the history of South Carolina rice culture, which he published in 1937. Heyward was most suited to write this book because he had been born into a family of rice planters and even tried his hand at it in the late 1800s. Unfortunately, he began at a time when rice planting was on the decline in the state. By

the time he became governor, the cultivation of rice had largely become a thing of the past, unable to withstand lower grain prices and the destruction of the elaborate dike systems by a couple of turn-of-the-century hurricanes.

After his term as governor ended, Heyward realized that he had acres of idle plantation land on his hands. Sometime in the early teens he decided to try something that, if successful, would bring a good many of the former rice plantations in the state back into production. He teamed with fellow planter William E. Jaycocks, and together they formed the Combahee Company in an effort to transform abandoned rice fields into land suitable for truck farming. The company purchased several plantations in the immediate vicinity of Heyward's old family plantation – most notably Rose Hill, Myrtle Grove, and Bluff Plantations. An engineer, Charles W. Okey, was hired to oversee the construction of a large dike system along the Combahee River, as well as an intricate pumping system to provide irrigation. Heyward was also able to entice Professor C.C. Newman, Chief of the Horticultural Division at Clemson Agricultural College, to join the project as Superintendent. A member of the DuPont family, Gen. I. Coleman DuPont, also became interested and provided much-needed capital. For a few years the company experimented with a variety of crops and even purchased several purebred hogs, but the project failed to yield satisfactory results and was abandoned.

After the dissolution of the Combahee Company, Heyward began an investment security firm in Columbia. He later sold insurance and also offered tax services. It was during this time period that he published his book on South Carolina rice culture. He died in 1943 at the age of 78 and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Columbia.

The Tokens of the Colleton Cypress Co. & The W.M. Ritter Lumber Co.

Tony Chibbaro

Last month I was contacted by a fellow collector from New Jersey, who, on a recent trip through Georgia, purchased the token pictured below. He had already done a bit of research online, believed the token to be from South Carolina, and wanted to know if I needed it. I was glad to tell him that the result of his research was accurate and that I would love to add it to my collection. So, after a few email exchanges, my wallet was noticeably lighter, but the token was on its way home to South Carolina.



Colleton Cypress Co. 50¢ token, aluminum, 32mm

Even though I was thrilled to add this piece to my collection, I had been expecting to run across one for quite some time. Back in 2003, I obtained a similar token, illustrated below, from a Virginia collector. As you can see, it is quite similar to the one above, albeit with two or three significant differences. It is, of course, somewhat smaller in size and a different denomination, but the most glaring disparity is the misspelled company name. When I cataloged it in the *Third Supplement to South Carolina Tokens*, I did so with the assumption that the die cutter had been a poor speller. Having never seen any other tokens from the company, I was not 100% sure about this conjecture and qualified my comments accordingly. But now, with the appearance of

a correctly-inscribed token, I can rest assured that my original notion has been proven correct.



Colleton (sic) Cypress Co. 5¢ token, aluminum, 22mm

But what about the company itself? Who operated it and when? The story of the Colleton Cypress Company is a fairly typical one, as far as South Carolina lumber companies are concerned. It was chartered in May of 1905 with Samuel N. Haws as president and Albert S. Sabin as secretary. Five years earlier, Haws and Sabin had been in business in Washington County, Tennessee. Haws had recently graduated from the George Washington University School of Law and Sabin had been a partner in a local sawmill. In 1907, however, the newly-formed corporation secured timber rights in Colleton County, South Carolina and both Haws and Sabin moved their families to the area. A steam-operated band sawmill capable of cutting 35,000 board feet per day was constructed near the town of Colleton and was producing finished lumber by October of 1908. The company also built a 5-mile-long standard-gauge logging railroad along the west bank of the Little Salkehatchie River. And, as evidenced by the existence of the tokens, a commissary was provided for the company's workers. The output of the mill was primarily cypress lumber, but it also produced some pine and several different hardwoods, as well as lath and shingles. From the start, the entire product line was marketed by the W.M. Ritter Lumber Company, the largest producer of hardwood lumber in the country.



W.M. RITTER STORE MANAGER-R.E. Manning, at Colleton, on a track bicycle at Colleton's (SC) first camp in 1912. [from 1924 HARDWOOD BARK]

Interesting photo of R.E. Manning, store manager at Colleton in 1912, on a "track bicycle"

Sometime prior to 1912, W.M. Ritter purchased all the assets of the Colleton Cypress Company from Haws & Sabin, and took over operations completely. For some reason, and totally unlike any of his other properties, Ritter retained the name of the smaller company for the Colleton County mill and proceeded to expand the site significantly. Capitalization of the company was increased from \$45,000 (at the time of incorporation) to \$500,000 in 1912. By 1920, the company had lengthened its logging railroad to 15 miles and was also operating an electric lighting plant, as well as a planing mill of 15,000 feet capacity. The 1920 issue of *The Southern Lumberman's Directory of American Saw and Planing Mills* noted that the company was producing lumber made of ash, cypress, elm, hickory, maple, oak, pine, poplar and tupelo. Around 1931, as

the standing timber controlled by Ritter near the Colleton mill began running out, the company started moving equipment to a site in Jasper County. The mill at Colleton was closed in 1932, and the corporate charter was dissolved in 1934.

But production was just starting in Jasper County. The mill there was situated near a 5800 acre tract of standing timber on the east side of the Savannah River, at a location the company called Hardwood. This site was just south of the town of Tillman on Southern Railroad's Savannah-to-Columbia main line. Daily output was 40,000 feet, in line with what it had been at the old Colleton location, a figure which made the site one of Ritter's smaller mills. Production continued at the Jasper County location until 1953.



W.M. Ritter Lumber Co. \$1.00 token, copper-nickel alloy, 32mm

Tokens were also used at the Tillman site, but the operation no longer went by the old Colleton Cypress Company name. The new mill was part of Ritter's larger group of lumber mills and was named as such – The W.M. Ritter Lumber Company. The tokens used at Tillman were the same as those used at Ritter's other commissaries and an example is illustrated immediately above. There are five denominations in the set – the \$1.00 token shown above, a 50 cents token in brass, a 25 cents token in copper-nickel alloy, a 10 cents token in brass, and a 5 cents token in copper-nickel alloy. The tokens are scarce today, even though they were used at many of Ritter's sawmills.



William McClellan Ritter (1864-1952)

William McClellan Ritter (1864-1952) was born in Hughesville, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. He worked on the family farm and at the family's sawmill, the latter providing him with valuable experience in the lumber industry. In 1890, he began his own logging operation in Mercer County, Pennsylvania. Over the next decade he opened several more sawmills, mostly in West Virginia. He incorporated all of these locations in 1901 as the W.M. Ritter Lumber Company. One of his largest lumber mills was located at Maben, West Virginia, and this site was in operation for over 35 years. By the 1920s Ritter controlled millions of acres of standing timber in the U.S. and had operations in 6 states – West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and both Carolinas. In addition to his lumber interests, Ritter owned and operated coal companies and railroads in Virginia and West Virginia.



W.M. Ritter Lumber Co.'s Store at Mortimer, NC

During World War I, Ritter moved from West Virginia to Washington, DC to serve on the War Industries Board as an adviser to Chairman, and native South Carolinian, Bernard Baruch. He operated his far-flung holdings from there even though corporate headquarters were technically located in Columbus, Ohio. As Ritter's company grew, he was forced to organize his operations into four separate divisions. By 1952, the company had produced more than 3 billion board feet of lumber and was the largest producer of hardwood lumber in the country. After Ritter's death, the company eventually passed into the control of his grand-nephew, William M. Ritter II, who served as president from 1956 to 1960. He presided over the merger of the company with Georgia-Pacific Corporation in 1960 and became vice president of the Southern Division of the newly-merged corporation.

One other interesting fact about the W.M. Ritter Lumber Company is that in 1907 it was indicted by a federal grand jury on a charge of peonage. Peonage, as described in the U.S. Legal Code, is defined as *the voluntary or involuntary service or labor of any persons as peons, in liquidation of any debt or obligation*. W.M. Ritter, acting on behalf of his company, entered a guilty plea and paid a fine on the charges. It is entirely likely that the company's system of paying workers with tokens had much to do with the indictment.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

WANTED: ANY AND ALL UNLISTED SOUTH CAROLINA TOKENS. Will pay very competitive prices for rare items that I need for my collection. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 (cell: 803-530-3668)

ARTICLES FOR CARTSNEWS. Everyone has a favorite token, a favorite story of the great find or the one that got away. Write it up and send it in.

NEW MEMBERS. You know what a great newsletter we have, and what great meetings occur twice a year. Let your buddies in on the fun. Recruit a member.

SALE OR TRADE

THREE SOUTHERN MAVERICKS FOR TRADE OR CASH—SEPARATELY OR TOGETHER. 1) Five cent Candler Lumber token (Kissimmee, Fla)--Rare; 2) Jones and Sugg, gf 5 c it—Unlisted (South Boston, Va.); 3) Dixie Spinning Mills orco 5 (Lupton City, Tn). Can bring to CARTS meeting. Prefer N.C. trades. blandl@elon.edu

BE SURE TO ATTEND THE CLEMMONS MEETING, MAY 17

CARTS Membership and Dues: Application for membership in CARTS is invited from anyone interested in the exonumia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

CARTSNEWS: CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

Advertising: Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected. Deadline for classified ads is the same as for paid ads (see below).

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.